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Tuesday, June 21, 2005

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Rochester planners support impact fees

ROCHESTER — The Planning Board is behind a proposed impact fee ordinance and is sending a formal recommendation to the City Council to move ahead with plans to develop an assessing formula and fee methodology. Aside from establishing a consensus among board members, there was little discussion about the proposal.

City Councilor Chuck Grassie presented the board with the proposal at their last meeting. It differs from what is on the books in that it allows for fees to be assessed on a citywide scale as opposed to off-site improvements, which tend to involve upgrading water and sewer lines and constructing sidewalks.

Board member Alan Dews said Dover has had success with impact fees and that's he anxious to see what formula is created by Bruce Mayberry, the area expert who the council is looking to bring in. Ray Varney said the board should support the proposal to move the process along. He made clear that creating a fee formula and seeing it put to use is the responsibility of the board, not the council.

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